

## ***Aedes (Ochlerotatus) nigrocanus* Martini, ITS TAXONOMIC STATUS (DIPTERA: CULICIDAE)**

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**ABSTRACT.** *Aedes nigrocanus* is known only by a holotype male located at the Natural History Museum, London. Minar (1991) in the Catalogue of Palaearctic Diptera regards this as a doubtful species and probably a junior synonym of *Aedes (Ochlerotatus) pulchritarsis* (Rondani). I have examined this unique specimen and compared it with *Ae. pulchritarsis*, and they are undoubtedly different species. A partial redescription of *Ae. nigrocanus* is herewith presented, and notes on comparative characters.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Specimen, data and condition: *Aedes (Ochlerotatus) nigrocanus* Martini, 1927, type locality Anatolischen Bahn, Turkey. I cannot make out the writing on Martini's original labels except for 1926 and Vogel coll. 6951, see Fig. 1. A scrap of paper with a red *a* is below these and then a label, *Aedes nigro-*

*canus* Martini, Holotype, P.F.M. 26.v.1954, and a holotype label. The specimen is glued right side down to a small card point. It is in a fairly good condition except for the left wing missing, the right wing almost bare of scales, the left legs and end of abdomen missing. The head, antennae, proboscis and maxillary palpi are complete except for the apical right palpomere.

Fig. 1. Labels with Martini's *Aedes nigrocanus* male.

## PARTIAL DESCRIPTION

**Thorax:** Scutum with a broad median longitudinal line of small narrow bronze scales from the anterior promontory to the anterior margin of the prescutellar area (scutum partly rubbed in center). Lateral to this median line scutum moderately covered with narrow curved white scales, and more densely on prescutellar area. A few narrow white curved scales remain on partly denuded lobes of scutellum. Antepronotum sparsely covered with moderately broad semi-erect white scales. Postpronotum with a few narrow white scales ventrally and a few smaller narrow bronze scales dorsally. Postspiracular area with 4 small white scales remaining. Mesepimeron moderately covered with white scales, fewer on upper part (probably some missing). Mesokatepisternum, upper 0.33 covered with white scales, lower distal border with white scales. Hypostigmal area with one white scale remaining. Postspiracular area bare. Subspiracular area with dense white scales. Proepisternum with white scales over ventral part. Postprocoxal membrane with a few white scales.

**Legs:** Left legs missing but a broken-off leg is glued to the stage, with femur, tibia and tarsomere 1, all white-scaled posteriorly. Right foreleg and midleg complete though in part not visible where glued to the stage. Tarsomeres dark brown without pale bands. Right hindfemur and -tibia present. Mid- and hindfemora and midtibia white-scaled posteriorly. Hindtibia with a narrow ventral line of white scales. Tarsomere 1 of fore- and midlegs white-scaled posteriorly with white scales extending to basal 0.33 of tarsomere 2 of these legs. Tarsal claws (examined *in situ*, not slide mounted), unequal, the larger long and slen-

der, on foreleg with small tooth on swollen base of claw and a longer tooth toward the middle, and midleg with one tooth toward middle of sinuous claw. One tooth on each small claw of these legs.

**Abdomen:** Laterotergite with white scales. Terga II to VI covered with light brown scales, white scales described as follows, not forming bands. Tergum I bare of scales except for scattering of white scales. Tergum II with very few basal and sub-basolateral white scales. Tergum III with a few sub-basolateral white scales. Tergum IV with a greater number of sub-basolateral white scales forming a small triangle on each side. Terga V and VI with more extensive basolateral scales forming white triangles to just beyond basal 0.5, completely joined basally on tergum VI. Sterna mostly covered with light brown scales, with a sparse scattering of white scales, mostly at lateral borders, and an apical row of 9 or 10 on sternum V. Sternum I completely bare.

**Genitalia:** Martini (1927, 1930) described and illustrated the *Ae. nigrocanus* genitalia, but the slide of the preparation has not been found. Mattingly (1955) wrote: "Described from a unique male adult. I was unable to find the terminalia but the rest of the specimen is now in the British Museum. I have marked it as the holotype." I cannot interpret the comparative morphology of Martini's illustrations of the genitalia of *Ae. nigrocanus* and *Ae. pulchritarsis*, but with *Ae. pulchritarsis* the claspette is longer, extending well beyond the basal mesal lobe of the gonocoxite as seen in Martini's (1930: 318) illustration and in a slide specimen of this species. The claspette of *Ae. nigrocanus* illustrated by Martini only just reaches the basal mesal lobe (best seen in the 1930 reproduction).

## DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS

*Aedes nigrocanus* (Fig. 2)  
holotype male

*Aedes pulchritarsis* male (Fig. 3)  
Castrocielo 29.3.61  
Coluzzi, 691028-1

Scutum

Broad median longitudinal line  
of small narrow bronze scales

No dark median line, median  
and submedian area covered

Fig. 2. *Aedes (Ochlerotatus) nigrocanus* Martini, 1927, holotype male.

Fig. 3. *Aedes (Ochlerotatus) pulchritarsis* (Rondani, 1872), male, Castrocielo 29.3.61, Coluzzi, 691028-1.

*Aedes nigrocanus**Aedes pulchritarsis*

	with narrow curved white scales laterad to this.	with slender ochreous scales to prescutellar area, with white scales at lateral borders.
Abdomen	Terga covered with light brown scales without basal white bands. Few subbasolateral white scales on terga II, III, IV, and forming basolateral triangles on terga V and VI.	Terga covered with black scales and broad white basal bands of uniform width, slightly indented at middle.
Legs	Femora and tibiae where visible, show sparse anterior white speckling, mid- and hindfemur with narrow white apical spot, hindtibia dark at apex.  Tarsomeres without pale bands (hindtarsus not seen).	Femora and tibiae with anterior white speckling and with conspicuous white apices.  Hindtarsomeres with broad white basal and apical bands on 1 to 4, 5 all white. Fore- and midtarsomeres with narrow basal and apical white bands, with 4 all dark and 5 all white.

## SUMMARY

Minar's (1991) suggestion that *Ae. nigrocanus*, known only by a single male specimen, is a doubtful species and junior synonym of *Ae. pulchritarsis* is shown to be incorrect. The *Ae. nigrocanus* specimen, although incomplete and not in the best condition, is seen to be certainly distinct from the conspicuously ornamented *Ae. pulchritarsis*.

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*Mosquito Control Association*, asked me to look into this matter.

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